control unit MCU plays the roles of the above-mentioned client service provider and charging surrogate service provider, thereby performing the authentication processing and charging processing on the subscriber wired terminals, the mobile information terminals **MS1** and **MS2**, and the camera-equipped digital mobile phones **MS3** and **MS4**.

[0104] The following describes an external configuration of the camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3** to which the present invention is applied. As shown in **FIG. 21**, the camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3** is composed of a display section **212** and a main body **213** and collapsible around a hinge **211** at the center.

[0105] The display section **212** has a retractable transmission/reception antenna **214** at the upper left side. The camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3** transmits and receives radio waves with the base station **CS3** via the antenna **214**.

[0106] The display section **212** has a camera section **215** which is pivotable in a range of about 180 degrees at the upper center section. The camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3** images desired objects by a CCD camera **216** housed in the camera section **306**.

[0107] If the camera section **215** is rotated by the user about 180 degrees, the display section **212** is positioned with a speaker **217** arranged at the rear center of the camera section **215** faced to the front side as shown in **FIG. 22**. Thus, the camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3** gets in the normal audio talk mode.

[0108] In addition, the display section **212** has a liquid crystal display (LCD) **218** at the front center section. The liquid crystal display **218** displays the contents of electronic mail, a simplified home page, and an image taken by the CCD camera **216** of the camera section **215** in addition to radio wave reception status, battery remaining amount, names and numbers of phones registered as a telephone directory, and an outgoing call history.

[0109] On the other hand, the main body **213** has operation keys **219** including numeric keys "0" through "9," a call key, a redial key, a hang-up/power key, a clear key, an electronic mail key, and other keys on the front surface. Various commands are inputted from these operation keys **219** into the camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3**.

[0110] Below the operation keys **219** of the main body **213**, a memo button **220** and a microphone **221** are arranged. When the memo button **220** is pressed, the camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3** records the voice of the called party. The camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3** picks up the voice of the user in the talk mode through the microphone **221**.

[0111] In addition, a rotatable jog dial **222** is arranged over the operation keys **219** on the main body **213** in a manner in which the job dial **222** is slightly projecting from the surface of the main body **213**. In accordance with the rotary operation of the jog dial **222**, the camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3** executes the scrolling of a telephone directory list or an electronic mail displayed on the liquid crystal display **218**, the turning of the displayed pages of simplified home page, and the feeding of displayed images, for example. For example, the main body **213** selects a desired telephone number from among those in a telephone directory list displayed on the liquid crystal display **218** by the rotation of the jog dial **222** by the user and, when the jog dial **222** is pressed into the main body **213**, enters the selected telephone number, thereby automatically originating a call to the party at the selected telephone number.

[0112] It should be noted that a battery pack, not shown, is loaded in the main body **213** at the rear side. When the hang-up/power key is turned on, power is supplied from the battery pack to each circuit, making the camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3** ready for operation.

[0113] The main body **213** also has a Memory Stick slot **224** at the upper left side in which the detachable Memory Stick **223** is loaded. When the memo button **220** is pressed, the camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3** records the voice of the called party into the loaded Memory Stick **223**. In accordance with the operation of the user, the camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3** records an electronic mail, a simplified home page, or an image taken by the CCD camera **216** into the loaded Memory Stick **223**.

[0114] The Memory Stick **223** is a kind of flash memory card developed by Sony Corporation, the applicant hereof. The Memory Stick **223** incorporates a flash memory element, one kind of EEPROM (Electrically Erasable and Programmable Read Only Memory) which is a nonvolatile memory capable of electrically rewriting and deleting, housed in a plastic case, in a small and thin shape, having dimensions of 21.5 mm×50 mm×2.8 mm. The Memory Stick allows writing and reading of various data such as images, voices, and music via a 10-pin terminal.

[0115] The Memory Stick **223** uses a proprietary serial protocol which guarantees compatibility with the devices wherein it is used even if the specifications of the incorporated flash memory have been changed due to the increase in its capacity for example, realizes the high-speed performance of maximum write rate of 1.5 MB/S and maximum read rate of 2.45 MB/S, and ensures the high reliability by the provision of an erroneous-deletion preventing switch.

[0116] Consequently, the camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3**, configured to detachably load the Memory Stick **223**, can share data with other electronic devices via the Memory Stick **223**.

[0117] The following describes an exemplary circuit configuration of the camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3**. As shown in **FIG. 23**, the camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3** is configured so that a main controller **250** for centrally controlling each portions of the display section **212** and the main body **213** is connected to a power supply circuit **251**, an operation input controller **252**, an image encoder **253**, a camera interface **254**, an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) controller **255**, an image decoder **256**, a multiplexer/demultiplexer **257**, a recording/reproducing section **262**, a modulation/demodulation circuit **258**, and an audio codec **259** via a main bus **260**, and the image encoder **256**, the image decoder **256**, the multiplexer/demultiplexer **257**, the modulation/demodulation circuit **258**, and the audio codec **259** are interconnected by a synchronous bus **261**.

[0118] The power supply circuit **251**, when the hang-up/power key is turned on by the user, supplies power from the battery pack to each component circuit, thereby making the camera-equipped digital mobile phone **MS3** ready for operation.